

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 123 520

CG 010 555

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TITLE Seven Juvenile Delinquents--Case Studies.
NOTE 16p.

EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.83 HC-\$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Adolescents; *Case Studies; *Corrective
Institutions; *Delinquency Causes; Delinquency
Prevention; *Delinquents; Demography;
Institutionalized Persons; Institutions;
Rehabilitation

ABSTRACT

Seven case studies are presented to further research on juvenile problems and to clarify existing juvenile problems. These seven were all inmates of the same institution at the same time, and were selected case studies--neither the best nor the worst. They were all interviewed inside the penal institution. The first part asked each about the charges against him and also asked for a history of previous charges. The second part dealt with their home and family life, as well as their street life and/or gang activity. The last part tried to lead the youngsters into making a prediction about the future. No attempt was made to summarize this writing or to make generalizations from the seven cases studied. (Author/NG)

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SEVEN JUVENILE DELINQUENTS- -CASE STUDIES

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These seven case studies are presented to enable research on juvenile problems. These studies were done by Mr. Williams in an effort to clarify existing juvenile problems. These seven were all inmates of the same institution at the same time. They were selected case studies and were neither the best nor the worst.

The presentation of these studies have no meaning so for a criticism of a particular institution nor state. Rather it is hoped by the two author to provide useful factual study of some existing problems without journalistic fabrication or misrepresentation.

The students were all interviewed personally by Mr. Williams inside the penal institution named by the youngsters.

The first part asks each about the charges against him and also asked for a history of previous charges.

The second part dealt with home and family life of the youths. Since the counselor was known by the inmates and was not a threat to them it was an inducement to speak openly and frankly.

The street life and/or gang activity was queried for information relating to peer influence.

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The next questions were asked in order to ascertain some insights about present treatment and attitudes toward the facilities. These certainly are vivid descriptions of the attitudes and problems as seen by the youngsters.

The last part is an attempt to lead the youngsters into making a prediction about the future. No attempt is made to summarize this writing or to make generalizations from the seven cases studied. These cases and the work of interviewing were all done by Mr. Williams. These were presented along with a summary and explanations to a class in educational research at Northern Illinois University. An attempt was made by Mr. Williams to retain the character of the individuals. In retyping the manuscript Dr. Starkey has tried to keep the spellings and tenses as Mr. Williams attempted to make words sound as the youngsters stated them. This entire project is to be credited to Mr. Williams with Dr. Starkey in advisory capacity.

Hopefully the reader will glean authentic research which may help youngster in their attempt to adapt to a fast tough, ever changing world.

Case #1: Race: Caucasian

1. Question: What is your date of birth?

Answer: July 5th, 1957.

2. Question: What is your present charge?

Answer: Parole violation.

3. Question: What were your previous charges?

Answer: I was first sent to DoC (Department of Corrections) in March of 72 for burglary. From here I was sent to Joliet R&D (Reception and Diagnostic) then to St. Charles. I played my role and got paroled in May 73. I was recommitted in Feb. 74 to Dixon Springs for car theft. I received an transfer to a group home in Quincy, from here I received an AA (authorize absent). I stayed out pass my return date and was declared UA. When I was caught I was brought to the Rock Island County Jail until they sent me here.

4. Question: Home Life (life outside of the penal institutions)

- a. How did you get along with your mother?
- b. How did you get along with your father?
- c. How well did you do in school?
- d. Have you ever held a job? Where and what?

Answer: a. My mother and I get along alright but I did not like her sending me away just because I stayed out all night a few nights.
b. My real father and I never knew each other because he left when I was real young. I do not like my step-father at all.
c. I like school a lot, at first. But when I went to high school I began to dislike school. I used to stay in trouble which lead to me being kicked out twice. I have always done better in schools that were in the state institutions.
d. I have worked for NYC, I have also worked as a volunteer janitor. When I got parole I worked with my parole agent as a peer counselor.

5. Question: Street Life

- a. Did you party a lot while you were at home?
- b. Did you get high a lot while you were at home?
- c. Did you belong to any gang or other organizations?

Answer: a. I partied a lot but this was done within my group of friends, we would get together at this store or over to someone's house and play music, then get high.
b. I stayed high a lot with my friends. They always had something to get off on. With them I tried MBA, Speed, THC, and mescaline. I have even tried both Speed and MBA with a needle.
c. I do not belong to any gangs.

6. Question: Do you feel you were wrongly committed at any time during your stays at the Illinois Youth Centers?
Answer: I felt I was done wrong when they put me in here (St. Charles) the first time. I should have went to a camp or something, but not here at St. Charles. I understand why I was locked up and do not even mind this, but I thought I should went some place else.
7. Question: What do you think of the Illinois Youth Centers?
Answer: The institution needs lots of changes, like more gym time, better recreational equipment and activities and a better way to get through to the boys here. The cottage itself is ok, but I think that the cottages can be improved if there was an place were an individual can get off to himself. I also think the dormitory area needs a big improvement.
8. Question: Have you ever tried to run? If so how many times have you ran?
Answer: I have ran every time I have been locked-up in a different institution at least once. I have only ran once from here.
9. Question: What do you think needs to be done to improve this institution?
Answer: See number 7.
10. Question: What do you think of your cottage supervisors? Of your teachers at school? Of your work supervisors?
Answer: Overall the cottage supervisors are ok, but they could be better. Supervisors here will not allow individuality. Some will not even listen to your problems, some counselors are just as bad. The only good of having a counselor is when you have a real serious problem. The teachers are ok, my job supervisor is ok too.
11. Question: Do you think that this will be your last time of ever being locked-up again in a penal institution?
Answer: I can just say I can only hope that this will be my last time.
12. Question: What are you going to do to make this your last time?
Answer: I am going to go back to school and find a job and stay real busy. I will also have to go a lot easier on the drugs.

Case #2: Race: Caucasian

1. Question: What is your date of birth?

Answer: December 9th, 1958.

2. Question: What is your present charge?

Answer: I was locked up for having a fake ID (Altered drivers licence).

3. Question: What were your previous charges?

Answer: I was originally charged with five burglaries and driving without a driver's license. For this they put me in St. Charles on 8/16/74/. The very first time I was arrested was in 68 or 69 for burglary. I was given a year probation. Later that same year I was arrested for possession. My mother paid the fine and I was freed. Before I finally got locked up I had had six probations, this was why I had so many charges piled up against me. Each time I got ready to go to court my date was always getting postponed. Once my mother paid off the judge and the lawyer to have me released.

4. Question: Home Life (life outside of the penal institutions)

- a. How did you get along with your mother?
- b. How did you get along with your father?
- c. How well did you do in school?
- d. Have you ever held a job? Where and what?

Answer:

- a. My mother and I got along ok.
- b. My father and I was so-so with each other.
- c. I hated school, I actually quit when I was in the fifth grade, but I was made to go on until the seventh grade. I never received an eighth grade diploma because I just did not like school or the teachers.
- d. I worked at a papermill, once I helped tended bar and once I worked at a car factory, but most of the money that I got came from ripoffs or selling drugs.

5. Question: Street Life

- a. Did you party a lot while you were at home?
- b. Did you get high a lot while you were at home?
- c. Did you belong to any gangs or other organizations?

Answer:

- a. When on the streets I used to party all of the time. When I am out of here I live with my lady and this other couple and their son in a trailer. We all used to party all the time and stayed high.
- b. When on the streets I used to deal drugs so I have tried some of everything. I have done Orange Sunshine, mescaline, purple double-barrel, speed, robin eggs, cocaine, smoke reefer and drink beer. I have even done speed and cocaine with a needle.
- c. I only hang around my small group of friends, I have never been involved in any gang activity.

6. Question: Do you feel you were wrongly committed at any time during your stays at the Illinois Youth Centers?
Answer: I felt I was wrongly locked up the very first time that I was locked up. I felt that they went about it wrong and I should have been released.
7. Question: What do you think of the Illinois Youth Centers?
Answer: I think St. Charles stinks; I have never been anywhere else to tell you about the other places.
8. Question: Have you ever tried to run? If so how many times have you ran?
Answer: I have only ran twice from here but I will run again if I ever get the chance.
9. Question: What do you think needs to be done to improve this institution?
Answer: I feel that this institution needs to get rid of the detail hall and find jobs for everybody right away.
10. Question: What do you think of your cottage supervisors? Of your teachers at school? Of your work supervisors?
Answer: The supervisors in this cottage are ok, the work supervisors are ok but the work stinks.
11. Question: Do you think that this will be your very last time of ever being locked-up again in a penal institution?
Answer: No, I do not think that this will be the last time that I get locked up because I am trouble prone, something is bound to happen to get me into trouble.
12. Question: What are you going to do to make this your last time?
Answer: I will just have to go my own way and leave all of my friends alone.

Case #3: Race: Black

1. Question: What is your date of birth?

Answer: October 14th, 1958.

2. Question: What is your present charge?

Answer: Stronge-arm robbery.

3. Question: What were your previous charges?

Answer: The first time I got locked up was when I was 10 back in 69 for arm robbery. I received a six months probation for this. Then in 70 I got busted again for robbery. First I went to the Audy home to wait for my trial, I stayed there for a month and then I was shipped to Joliet R&D and then to DuPage. I stay at DuPage a year and got parole in 71. In 72 I was sent back to Joliet R&D for parole violation. I got caught stealing at Sears on 63th and Halsted. From Joliet R&D they sent me to a group home. I ran from this group home in May 73. I got busted again in August 73 for arm robbery and stayed at Cook County jail for a month and went to court three times until they release me. On May 30, 1974 my brother and I got busted together for car theft, this was when I was sent here. I got parole again in July 74. I stayed out one month and got busted for arm robbery and got sent back here.

4. Question: Home Life (life outside of the penal institutions)

- a. How did you get along with your mother?
- b. How did you get along with your father?
- c. How well did you do in school?
- d. Have you ever held a job? Where and what?

Answer: a. I think my mother is really hip. I know she is missing me while I am in here. She really dug me too because I was the youngest and I was the only child that really tried to help her around the house.

b. I did not know my father, he left us while I was real young.

c. I thought school was alright but it was very dull and boring. I never got anything out of school.

d. I had an NYC job and worked with the janitor in my building, but I got almost all of my money from shooting craps and stick-ups.

5. Question: Street Life

- a. Did you party a lot while you were at home?
- b. Did you get high a lot while you were at home?
- c. Did you belong to any gangs or other organizations?

Answer: a. When I was on the set I was always going to clubs with a lady or a couple of partners. When we were not at the taverns we were over somebody's house doing something.

- b. As for getting high we used to smoke reefer everyday and drink Shake and Bake (white port wine and kool-aid) all the time. I tried coke (cocaine) once and did not like it, so I will probably just stick to the wine and reefer.
- c. I belong to a gang, in fact I belong to four gangs, The Vice Lords, the Souls, the Saints and the MK Mystery Knights.
6. Question: Do you feel you were wrongly committed at any time during your stays at the Illinois Youth Centers?
Answer: No, I did wrong, I admit it.
7. Question: What do you think of the Illinois Youth Centers?
Answer: For the institutions that I have been in I like the group home the best until they started messing over me. St. Charles is alright, Joliet is a little better and DuPage is still better.
8. Question: Have you ever tried to run? If so how many times have you ran?
Answer: When I was at the group home I ran three times because they were messing over me. I ran once from here when I working with the D.V.R. program in Geneva.
9. Question: What do you think needs to be done to improve this institution?
Answer: I think that the Detail hall should be gotten rid of.
10. Question: What do you think of your cottage supervisors? Of your teachers at school? Of your work supervisors?
Answer: Everybody is ok with me and I do not have problems with nobody.
11. Question: Do you think that this will be your very last time of ever being locked-up again in a penal institution?
Answer: I do not know, the way things are going I just might get locked up again.
12. Question: What are you going to do to make this your last time?
Answer: I am going to go back to trade school and get a full time job.

Case #4: Race: Black

1. Question: What is your date of birth?

Answer: December 9th, 1958.

2. Question: What is your present charge?

Answer: I am in here for purse snatching.

3. Question: What were your previous charges?

Answer: I was first sent to the Department of Corrections for assault and battery on a teacher, just before that I had been caught stealing a blank gun. I was given probation for all of this. In 72 I got caught and charged with an robbery when I stuck up this newspaper stand, I received another probation. In December 73 I hit a teacher at Moses and they sent me to the Audy home, then to Joliet R&D and then to Hanna City. I stayed at Hanna City until I got parole on 5/2/74. I got nailed for purse snatching two weeks latter and sent back to Joliet then back to Hanna City. I was transferred from Hanna City to DuPage and while at DuPage I went UA. I got caught and was sent to St. Charles.

4. Question: Home Life (life outside of the penal institutions)

a. How did you get along with your mother?

b. How did you get along with your father?

c. How well did you do in school?

d. Have you ever held a job? Where and what?

Answer: a. In my home town I live with my mother and step-father, and my mother is cool.

b. I really do not have much to say about my step-father. I live with my real father a lot who lives in Chicago. He is real hip and we get along ok.

c. School is messed up, they put me in a special education classroom for my speech and I did not want to go, I also went to Moses because I hit that teacher with a pop bottle.

d. I have never worked before, I get all my money from an allowance my mother send me and from whatever rip-offs I do.

5. Question: Street Life

a. Did you party a lot while you were at home?

b. Did you get high a lot while you were at home?

c. Did you belong to any gangs or other organizations?

Answer: a. I party alot, I usually go out with my partner, Larry Ford. (Larry is the younger brother of Jeff Ford who is the chieftian of the Black P Stone Nation.

b. When I was on the set, Larry and I used to drink Shake and Bake all the time and smoke reefer. I tried purple haze one time and could not hang.

c. I belong to the Baby Stones, part of the Black P Stone Nation.

6. Question: Do you feel you were wrongly committed at any time

- Answer: during your stays at the Illinois Youth Centers?
I knew why I was locked up but I do not think they had any rights for putting me in St. Charles instead of sending me back to camp.
7. Question: What do you think of the Illinois Youth Centers?
Answer: Some of the Illinois Youth Centers are ok.
8. Question: Have you ever tried to run? If so how many times have you ran?
Answer: I ran once from DuPage and once from Hanna City. I ran from DuPage because they would not give me a Christmas furlough. When I was at Hanna City I took my furlough because they said that I was pressuring other boys and I did not deserve one.
9. Question: What do you think needs to be done to improve this institution?
Answer: I think that the point system of this cottage should be gotten rid of, because other people make you mess up and lose your points too easy.
10. Question: What do you think of your cottage supervisors? Of your teachers at school? Of your work supervisors?
Answer: All the cottage supervisors are ok but one. The teachers and work supervisors are all ok.
11. Question: Do you think that this will be your very last time of ever being locked-up again in a penal institution?
Answer: I am going to try to make this my last time.
12. Question: What are you going to do to make this your last time?
Answer: I am going to quit ripping off and stop gang-banging and get me a job.

Case #5: Race: Black

1. Question: What is your date of birth?
Answer: August 21th, 1956.
2. Question: What is your present charge?
Answer: I am in here for armed robbery.
3. Question: What were your previous charges?
Answer: I first got into trouble in 68 for assault. For this I was locked up in DuPage until early 70. Right after I was release I got charged with armed robbery and did not get locked up again but was given some type of probation. I stayed out of trouble until 73, that is when I was charged again for armed robbery and sent here to St. Charles. I have been here ever since and have been hoping for a parole very soon.

4. Question: Home Life (life outside of the penal institutions)

- a. How did you get along with your mother?
- b. How did you get along with your father?
- c. How well did you do in school?
- d. Have you ever held a job? Where and what?

Answer: a. My mother died when I was four years old.
b. My father and I were never close, I really do not know him. I was raised by an aunt and uncle, along with six other children.
c. I quit in the fourth grade. First I got into a fight with a teacher and then they put me into a special education classroom. I felt that I was wrongly placed there and protested by not going to school at all. My aunt came up to the school to try to help get me out of that room but it did not work, so I quit school. She had a tutor to come by for about year and eventually just stop, in the mean while I just gave up on the whole thing.
d. The only type of work I have done was three months at a Burger King place and three months at a Green Gaint factory.

5. Question: Street Life

- a. Did you party a lot while you were at home?
- b. Did you get high a lot while you were at home?
- c. Did you belong to any gangs or other organizations?

Answer: a. When I was on the set I used to party every Friday and Saturday nights at different clubs and dances.
b. I used to always git together and get high with a bunch of friends. We used to drink Canadian Club or wine, smoke some reefer, or drop some TAC or speed or snort some coke, I even helped a couple of partners shoot up with a needle, myself, I would never touch a needle.
c. I was Chief o the Northside Disciples.

6. Question: Do you feel you were wrongly committed at any time during your stays at the Illinois Youth Centers?

Answer: No, I do not feel that I was wrongly committed, I just want to serve my time and get out.

7. Question: What do you think of the Illinois Youth Centers?

Answer: I think they are all messed up and should be burned to the ground.

8. Question: Have you ever tried to run? If so how many times have you ran?

Answer: I have never tried to run and I doubt if I ever would try, I just want to serve my time and get out.

9. Question: What do you think needs to be done to improve this institution?

Answer: See number seven.

10. Question: What do you think of your cottage supervisors? Of your teachers at school? Of your work supervisors?
Answer: The majority of the cottages and work supervisors are messed up.
11. Question: Do you think that this will be your very last time of ever being locked-up again in a penal institution?
Answer: Yes, I probably will get locked up again.
12. Question: What are you going to do to make this your last time?
Answer: I will have to leave Rockford and start all over again.

Case #6: Race: Caucasian

1. Question: What is your date of birth?
Answer: October 27th, 1958.
2. Question: What is your present charge?
Answer: I am in here for drugs and burglary.
3. Question: What were your previous charges?
Answer: In 71 I was given probation for a burglary. In 72 I was charged with an probation violation for drugs. The police in the neighborhood knew I was doing drugs real heavy but only had hear-say evidence against me, so I was given an extention on my probation. Later on in 72 I got caught committing a burglary. Instead of locking me up I was given a chance to be committed to the Department of Corrections or leave town. I went to live with my rich aunt in Elmhurst. I did not like it there so I ran. I stayed out for one week and got caught and then I was sent to a group home to wait for court. I ran from this group home and stayed out three months until I O.D. over a friend house. I was sent to court for the overdose and they sent me to Joliet R&D. I was shipped to DuPage where I went UA three times. I was then shipped to Vallyview where I went UA once and stole a car and wrecked it. I was then sent to Hanna City where I decided to go on and do my time. After nine months I got parole on May 2, 1974. I stayed out 3½ weeks and got busted for breaking into a doctors office. I was recommitted to the Department of Corrections on two warrants, one from my parole agent and the other from the court. I was sent back to Hanna City, I stayed there for one week and went UA. I was caught in June 74 and sent here to St. Charles. Since I have been here at St. Charles I have ran four times and have three attempted runs.

4. Question: Home Life (life outside of the penal institutions)

- a. How did you get along with your mother?
- b. How did you get along with your father?
- c. How well did you do in school?
- d. Have you ever held a job? Where and what?

Answer: a. My mother and father have been separated on and off for the last eight years. I get along a lot better with my mother than I do with my father.

b. My father and I are not the best of friends but he is my father.

c. I stayed in school until the sixth grade, at this point I was sent to Moses, I did not like school so I stayed into a lot of trouble. I received my eighth grade diploma while in Hanna City and I am now working on my G.E.D. out here.

d. The only job that I have ever had was at Hardee's and that was while I was in Hanna City.

5. Question: Street Life

- a. Did you party a lot while you were at home?
- b. Did you get high a lot while you were at home?
- c. Did you belong to any gangs or other organizations?

Answer: a. I would always go to my friends house and party there with them or else we would all go to a concert.

b. I used to just stay high. I did windowpane, white blotter, purple micro-dot, THC, cocaine, reds, yellows, Christmas trees, reefer, lots of beer and Blackberry brandy. Where I lived would always stay zonked-out.

c. I never belonged to any gang, I just did my thing with my friends.

6. Question: Do you feel you were wrongly committed at any time during your stays at the Illinois Youth Centers?

Answer: I felt that I was wrongly put into St. Charles, I should have been placed in a drug institution.

7. Question: What do you think of the Illinois Youth Centers?

Answer: I do not think the Illinois Youth Centers rehabilitate people, most people go in and come out better crooks.

8. Question: Have you ever tried to run? If so how many times have you ran?

Answer: Yes, I ran a couple of times. St. Charles four times; Hanna City one time; Valleyview one time; DuPage three times; and Sunnyridge group home one time.

9. Question: What do you think needs to be done to improve this institution?

Answer: All the centers need are more activities to keep the boys occupied all the time. The centers also need a program that will really try to rehabilitate people.

10. Question: What do you think of your cottage supervisors? Of your teachers at school? Of your work supervisors?
Answer: Some supervisors are ok, some are not. All the teachers are ok.
11. Question: Do you think that this will be your very last time of ever being locked-up again in a penal institution?
Answer: No, this probably will not be the last time, but I will try to make this the last time I get caught.
12. Question: What are you going to do to make this your last time?
Answer: If I can find a nice job I know that will keep me out of here.

Case #7: Race: Caucasian

1. Question: What is your date of birth?
Answer: February 28th, 1958.
2. Question: What is your present charge?
Answer: Attempted armed robbery.
3. Question: What were your previous charges?
Answer: The very first time I ever went to court was in 69 for burglary, I was given probation. I stayed clean until 72 when I got committed to the Department of Corrections for burglary. I was sent to Hanna City where I stayed until I got paroled in March 73. I was declared a parole violator and was sent back to Hanna City in October 73. I stayed there two months and went UA four times, this is when they sent me to St. Charles. I got parole on 1/21/75 and stayed out eight days and got busted for armed robbery and was sent back to St. Charles.
4. Question: Home Life (life outside of the penal institutions)
 - a. How did you get along with your mother?
 - b. How did you get along with your father?
 - c. How well did you do in school?
 - d. Have you ever held a job? Where and what?
Answer:
 - a. My mother has been dead since I was seven.
 - b. My father and I are ok, but he really hates me being in here.
 - c. I have been going on and off to school every since I was in the fifth grade. I was placed in a special education classroom while in grade school and stayed in it until high school. I really did not like school and always stayed into a lot of trouble.

5. Question: Street Life

- a. Did you party a lot while you were at home?
- b. Did you get high a lot while you were at home?
- c. Did you belong to any gang or other organizations?

Answer: a. Only kinds of partys that I would deal with were the get togethers my friends and I would have. We would just play music and get high.
b. I will get off on any alcohol, any kind of pill's, reefer and anything else that will get me high, I'm not particular, I even done heroin before.
c. I never belonged to any kind of gang.

6. Question: Do you feel you were wrongly committed at any time during your stays at the Illinois Youth Centers?

Answer: I realized what I did and why I am locked up.

7. Question: What do you think of the Illinois Youth Centers?

Answer: Most of the Illinois Youth Centers are so-so, I really did not dislike any of them.

8. Question: Have you ever tried to run? If so how many times have you ran?

Answer: I ran before but I doubt if I will ever try it again.

9. Question: What do you think needs to be done to improve this institution?

Answer: I think that they need to get rid of some supervisors and change a lot of the rules.

10. Question: What do you think of your cottage supervisors? Of your teachers at school? Of your work supervisors?

Answer: No answer.

11. Question: Do you think that this will be your last time of ever being locked-up again in a penal institution?

Answer: This will probably be the last time I get locked-up.

12. Question: What are you going to do to make this your last time?

Answer: All I have to do to make sure is to get out of the robbery business.